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MARVEL
SPIDER-MAN GROUP

VENOM

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

TM

ALONG CAME A SPIDER...

ST.PIERRE +'95
McKENNA

AND FRIGHTENED MISS MUFFET AWAY

AT THRILL WORLD AMUSEMENT PARK IN BROOKLYN, EDDIE BROCK, SPIDER-MAN AND SHE-VENOM HAVE STUMBLED UPON THE HIDEOUT OF A VICIOUS GANG OF DRUG AND WEAPONS DEALERS.

EDDIE!! OH, EDDIE-- DON'T DIE!!

SCOPE THIS OUT, JELLY! ROACH PUT HIS FLAME THROWER TO THAT DUDE AND SENT HIM TO CRISPY-CRITTERVILLE!

THAT STENCH IS RUDE, MAN-- LIKE BURNT BACON!

ANN--

--I-- NEED--THE-- OTHER!

ONLY THE ALIEN CAN SAVE ME!

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LIKE IT HEALED ME WHEN I WAS DYING--!*

YES--

--LET--IT--COME--TO--ME--!

--AHHH!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

* IN VENOM: SINNER TAKES ALL #2. -- TOM.

HOO-HA!

NOW WE ARE WHOLE AGAIN!

OH, EDDIE-- DON'T LET THE VENOM SIDE OF YOU TAKE OVER!!

THAT WAS WHACK, MAN!

I'LL GIVE YOU A HOLE--

--I'LL GIVE YOU A WHOLE MESS OF NINE MILLIMETER HOLES!

IT'S THAT VENOM CREEP!

HE DON'T LOOK THAT BAD TO ME--!

STONE UGLY, BUT NOT SO BAD HE CAN'T BE CAPPED-OFF, BLOWN AWAY, ZAPPED, SNUFFED, WHACKED, AND OTHERWISE DONE AWAY WITH!

WASTE HIM!

GET BEHIND US, ANN!

BLAM BLAM

POW

THIS AMMO IS CHUMP--

THE FAULT LIES NOT IN YOUR AMMUNITION--

--BUT IN YOUR COLD, UNCARING, UNSALVAGEABLE CRIMINAL HEARTS!

EEEEYAAAA!

YOW! FIRST, I HAD TO STOP ANN WEYING FROM RIPPING APART THE BAD GUYS...

...NOW, I'VE GOT TO RESTRAIN VENOM FROM DOLING OUT HIS OWN BRAND OF INSTANT STREET JUSTICE!

SPIDER-MAN JUST JUMPED INTO THE FRAY!

ATF

DEA

TIME FOR US TO INTERVENE YET?

NEGATIVE! THIS WHOLE OPERATION WAS SET UP TO BAG THE HEAD SLIME-BUCKET HIMSELF-- LD-50!

HE'S BEEN FLOODING THE CITY WITH DRUGS AND GUNS!

I'M NOT WHOLELY AGAINST **BRUISING** A FELON OR TWO IN THE ACT OF APPREHENDING THEM FOR THE PROPER AUTHORITIES--

--I JUST HAPPEN TO DRAW THE LINE AT **EATING THEIR BRAINS!!!**

KEEE-RASH

YOU ARE SUCH A **WIMP**, SPIDER-MAN!

MIGHT AS WELL POP CAPS AT **SPIDER-MAN** WHILE HE'S HERE!

YEAH, AT LEAST WE KNOW **HIS** BUTT AIN'T **BULLET-PROOF!**

BLAM

BLAM POW

BNEEEEE

TZING

PING

SEE HOW THE **VERMIN** REPAY YOUR ACTIONS ON THEIR BEHALF?

NOBODY GETS INTO THE SUPER HERO GAME EXPECTING **GRATITUDE**, VENOM!

DON'T YOU STRUGGLE NONE, PRETTY LADY--

--THE OL' ROACH MEISTER HAS GOT AN ITCHY TRIGGER FINGER AND A FULL PRESSURIZED TANK OF JELLIED GASOLINE!

THAT FLAME-THROWER--!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BURNT UP EDDIE!!

VERY ASTUTE OBSERVATION, PRETTY LADY...

...AND I'M PRETTY OBSERVANT MYSELF!

I NOTICED THAT YOU'RE PRETTY IMPORTANT TO VENOM!

NOW WHERE DID I PUT THAT FLIP-PHONE--?

LD-50? THIS IS ROACH! I GOT VENOM'S MAIN SQUEEZE AS A HOSTAGE!

AM I EXPECTED TO EXPIRE IN PAROXYSMS OF ECSTASY AT THESE TIDINGS--?

HARDLY!

MAINTAIN THE TROLLOP INCOMMUNICADO, MY GOOD MAN...

...MY PUGNACIOUS COHORTS AND I ARE ALLEVIATING THE ONEROUS DILEMMA WITH VEHICULAR BEHEMOTHS AND MASSED FIREPOWER!

NOW, GET OFF THE LINE, I HAVE MY PSYCHIATRIST ON HOLD!

ANN?

ANN??

WHAT HAVE THESE ABHORRENT SLIME DONE WITH MY EX-WIFE??

TAKING THE OFFENSIVE, ARE THEY--?

BLAM

POW

THAT SIMPLY SAVES US THE TROUBLE OF FINDING THEM!

COME BACK HERE, YOU PARASITICAL WASTE-PRODUCT OF A SICK SOCIETY!

RATATATATA

THUMP

WHUMP

SPLAT

THWIPP

AAAAARRRGH!

AT LEAST MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL AS A BULLET-STOPPER!

VENOM!

PUT HIM DOWN AND I'LL HELP YOU FIND ANN!

DR. DAFAY? LD-50 HERE. I AM IN THE MIDST OF AN EGREGIOUSLY STRESSFUL SITUATION, AND I WANT IT ON RECORD THAT I MAY BE EXPERIENCING A PSYCHOTIC EPISODE...

Dr. Otto Dafay
Clinical
Psychologist

...ONE THAT MAY EVEN RENDER ME IMMUNE TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IN THE EVENT OF MY APPREHENSION BY LOCAL GENDARMERIE!

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, MR. FIFTY! SAY, DO YOU WANT ME TO PUT THIS ON YOUR REGULAR TAB?

DON'T GO IN THERE, CLARK!! WE'VE BEEN ORDERED OFF THIS CASE BY THE ATF AND THE DEA!!

YOU'RE GOING TO KILL YOUR CHANCE TO BE CHIEF SOME DAY!

IT WAS A LONG SHOT ANYWAY, STEEN!

RIGHT NOW, ANN WEYING IS IN THERE, AND WE'RE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR HER!!

MAN, LD-50 WENT AND GOT HIS BAD RIDES!

HE'S GONNA PUT THE GIANT FIRESTONES TO THOSE SUPER-GEEKS AND SMOKE THEIR SHOES!

THIS IS GONNA BE PHAT!

VROOM

BLAM! BLAM! POW!

I SAID, PUT HIM DOWN, VENOM!

WHY NOT? HE'S ALL FULL OF HOLES, ANYWAY--!

AND HE'S SERVED HIS PURPOSE: DEFLECTING THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS FELONS!

IF THAT WAS AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR PROSE, IT'S NO WONDER YOU WERE A FAILURE AS A JOURNALIST!

I DIDN'T FAIL AS A NEWSPAPERMAN--

SKRONCH

--MY CAREER WAS SABOTAGED BY YOU...

...OR SOMEONE SO SIMILAR TO YOU HE COULD BE YOUR TWIN!

SCHRRIPP

WHAT? HOW COULD HE KNOW--?

OF COURSE! HIS SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH ME ONCE BEFORE!* IT MUST RECOGNIZE ME!

OH YEAH? MY NEW AFTER-SHAVE THREW YOU OFF, HUH?

THAT WAS ABOUT AS CONVINCING AS THAT NEW COSTUME YOU'RE WEARING!

*DURING PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES IN THE 1995 SPIDER-MAN ANNUALS.--TOM

THOOOM

SEND THE BILL TO MY CAYMAN ISLANDS ADDRESS, DR. DAFAY...

...AND LET US NOT FORGET THE RENEWAL ON MY PROZAC PRESCRIPTION!

I SAY WE WAIT AND BAG LD-50 WITH THE GOODS!

WE SHOULD TAKE HIM DOWN NOW! THIS OP IS WAY OUT OF CONTROL!

ATF

DEA

DEA

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? LD-50 IS JUST GOING TO TESTIFY IN EXCHANGE FOR IMMUNITY AND GO INTO THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM!

WHO SAID CRIME DOESN'T PAY?

SO WHAT *ARE* YOU? THE *TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTE* OR THE *PERMANENT REPLACEMENT*?

I'M THE *ORIGINAL* SPIDEY, AND THE FRIENDLY NEIGHBOR-HOOD SPIDER-MAN THAT *VENOM* KNEW WAS MY *CLONE*, BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT--!

HEY--! LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT *ANN WEYING*!

HOW CAN WE FORGET THAT *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO'S TRYING TO TURN HER *AGAINST* US!

DON'T *SAY* IT, SPIDER-MAN--!

FACSIMILE, FRAUD OR REAL McCOY, I'VE GOT *MORE* THAN ENOUGH REASON TO PULP YOUR PROBOSCIS!

WELL, IF YOU REALLY *LOVED* HER, YOU WOULD--

LOOK OUT *BEHIND* YOU!

HA! YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR THAT OLD--

SLAMM!

--TRICK?

LD-50 JUST MADE ROAD-KILL OUTTA THAT VENOM JERK!

IMBEDDED HIS FACE IN THE GRILL!

OH, NO!

OH, MAN--I HOPE THE TERRIFIC BEATING I'VE BEEN GIVING TO VENOM'S KNUCKLES WITH MY FACE IS WEARING HIM DOWN SOME--

--I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING THAT GETTING FLATTENED BY A MONSTER 4X4 ISN'T GOING TO SLOW HIM DOWN TOO MUCH!

DR. DAFAY? MY MOOD HAS BEEN UNEXPECTEDLY ELEVATED IN THE LAST FEW MOMENTS AND I CAN'T EXPRESS HOW--

--URK!! I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER!!

THAT'S TOO OPTIMISTIC, SLIME-BAG--

THERE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY LATER FOR YOU!

I'LL SCRAPE HIM OFF THE HOOD FOR YA, BOSS--

URRRGH!

--WITH A L.A.W.* ROCKET!!

FOOOOSH

THOOM

*LIGHT ANTI-TANK WEAPON

FINISH HIM!

I WANT HIM *MOLECULARLY DISINCORPORATED!*

TIME TO GET OURSELVES INTO A *NEUTRAL CORNER*, VENOM--

TZING

BWEE

VIP VIP VIP

UHHHH--

--SO WE CAN TAKE *FIVE* AND *REGROUP!*

DISCRETION IS THE BETTER PART OF *VALOR*, RIGHT?

DESIST! THE ARACHNO-HUMANOID PSYCHO-VIGILANTES HAVE BEEN PUT IN THEIR *PLACE* FOR NOW!

OUR TIME IS BETTER SPENT IN THE SPEEDY REMOVAL OF OUR *MERCHANDISE* FROM THESE ENDANGERED SPECIES!

HOUSE OF HORROR

WE'RE MOVIN' THE *DRUGS* AND *GUNS* TO ANOTHER *SAFE HOUSE?*

PRECISELY!

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE *HOSTAGE*, BOSS?

IT WOULD SEEM THAT SHE IS, SHALL WE SAY, *REDUNDANT*?

WHAT WAS IT THAT HENRY II ASKED THOSE FOUR KNIGHTS TO DO TO THOMAS ABECKET? YOU THINK ABOUT IT AND DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, THEN COME JOIN US DOWN IN THE *BUNKER*.

IT WAS, LIKE, A *RHETORICAL* QUESTION, BUT THEY TOOK IT TO MEAN THEY SHOULD *WHACK* THE DUDE!

LD-50 DON'T WAX TOO RHETORICAL, YOU DIG? LIKE, THE DUDE IS *LITERAL* TO A FAULT--

DROP THE BISCUIT, SKELL!!

KEE-RASH

I SAID DROP IT!!

BLAMM BLAMM

EEEYOW!

KA-THOOOM

HANG ON, ANN! WE'RE HERE TO SAVE YOU!!

THE SAVING PART IS TAKEN CARE OF, VENOM, ALTHOUGH THE TWO OF YOU CAN ASSIST IN THE MOPPING UP!

ANN!! DID THAT CREEP HURT YOU? ARE YOU--?

YOU STAY AWAY FROM ME!!

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYMORE!

I DON'T WAN'T THAT ALIEN OTHER TO COME NEAR ME EVER AGAIN, EVEN IF IT'S TO SAVE MY LIFE!

HEY! WHERE DID THAT SKELL GO

THERE'S A *HATCH* THAT LEADS DOWN INTO THE *BUNKER* THAT *LD-50* IS USING TO STORE HIS *DRUGS* AND *WEAPONS*--

--THAT HOOD WITH *FLAMETHROWER* IS PROBABLY ON HIS WAY DOWN TO WARN HIS BOSS AND MAKE HIS GETAWAY!

ANN-- I *LOVE* YOU...

...I'D DO *ANYTHING* FOR YOU!

NOT ONLY IS THE *EDDIE BROCK* I USED TO KNOW GONE OVER THE EDGE INTO DELUSIONAL BEHAVIOR AND DEPENDENCE ON THIS *ALIEN*--

--BUT NOW, YOU'RE TRYING TO GET *ME* HOOKED AS WELL!

I STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO RESIST IT, AND I'M HOPING THAT *YOU* CAN FIND THE STRENGTH IN YOURSELF TO DO THE SAME--

IF AND WHEN YOU MANAGE TO DO THAT, AND IF AND WHEN YOU BURY THE HATCHET WITH *SPIDER-MAN*...

...*THEN*, WE'LL HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT.

THIS IS THE HATCH, HUH? WHAT'S THIS *PUDDLE*?

GAS...

JELLIED GASOLINE--

ONE OF YOUR BULLETS MUST HAVE PUNCTURED THE *FLAMETHROWER TANK!*

I WANT THIS MERCHANDISE REMOVED *POST HASTE!*

AND EXERCISE A GOODLY AMOUNT OF *CAUTION* IN DEALING WITH THOSE BARRELS OF *EPHEDRINE* AND *ETHER*--

--THEY ARE AS *VOLATILE* AS THEY ARE *EXPENSIVE!*

YO, BOSS! THE *PIG PLANT JOHO* CUT HIMSELF *LOOSE* AND *BLEW!*

HERE COMES ROACH!

THE *COPS* ARE UP IN THE *HAUNTED HOUSE LD-50!*

THEY GONNA BE COMIN' DOWN THE TUNNEL ANY *SECOND!*

THEN WE SHALL HAVE TO *RAIN* ON THEIR *PARADE*, SHAN'T WE?

WHAT DOES LD-50 HAVE DOWN IN THAT BUNKER, JOMO?

A HALF TON OF DRUGS, A FEW HUNDRED CRATES OF HEAVY ARMAMENTS...

...AND A WHOLE MESS OF 55-GALLON DRUMS FULL OF EPHEDRINE AND ETHER!

THAT'S THE STUFF THEY USE TO PROCESS METH-AMPHETAMINE AND COCAINE.

GOOD GRIEF! THEY STORE THAT STUFF WITH EXPLOSIVES AND AMMO??

IF THERE REALLY IS A BIG STASH OF GUNS AND DOPE DOWN THERE, THEN WE HAD BETTER GO AND STOP THOSE BAD BOYS BEFORE THEY SPLIT WITH THE GOODS!

I AM WILLING TO IGNORE THE PRESENCE OF A KNOWN FELON AND A NOTORIOUS COSTUMED VIGILANTE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PUBLIC IF THEY WILL HELP APPREHEND THESE DIRT-BAGS...

YOU'VE GOT A DEAL, CLARK!

IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO SNEAK UP ON THEM IN THE DARK!

KA-SHUNK

IN THE BUNKER...

DAG! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?

'TIS BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS--

I GOT A MATCH, YOU GOT THE CANDLE BOSS?

URK! IT WAS A METAPHOR, STUPID!!

FOOOMP

SOMEBODY STAMP HIM OUT BEFORE THE WHOLE CACHE IGNITES AND--

UH-OH!

BA-WHOOOMPH

HOO-HA!!

OH, MY STARS AND GARTERS!

ATF

LOOK OUT!! IT'S RAINING GUNS!!

YOW! I HAVEN'T RUN THAT FAST SINCE HIGH SCHOOL!

YOU WERE ON THE TRACK TEAM?

NAH. JUST UNPOPULAR.

WHERE'S VENOM? WASN'T HE RIGHT BEHIND US?

VENOM! HE PLAYED US FOR SUCKERS! HE SWITCHED OFF THE LIGHTS HOPING TO GET THEM TO LIGHT A MATCH--

--AND HIS BET *PAID* OFF!

THAT MANIAC WAS ACTING AS *JUDGE, JURY* AND *EXECUTIONER!*

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO *DEAL* WITH HIM...

...IF I CAN EVER TRACK HIM DOWN AGAIN!

ACROSS THE STREET...

I *TOLD* YOU WE SHOULD HAVE GONE DOWN THERE AND BUSTED THEM!

I HAD ORDERS FROM UPSTAIRS TO *WAIT!* WE NEED *LD-50* TO *TESTIFY* AGAINST HIS *SUPPLIERS!*

SO NOW, WE'VE GOT *NOTHING!!*

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? AT LEAST THAT SLIME-BAG IS OFF THE STREETS!

WE HAVE ALL THE *MORE* REASON TO *HATE SPIDER-MAN,* EVEN IF THIS ONE *IS* ONLY THE *PRETENDER* TO THE TITLE--

--BUT WE WON'T THROW AWAY OUR ONLY CHANCE AT RECONCILIATION WITH *ANN!*

NO! WE MUST *REDIRECT* OUR *ANGER*--

--*CHANNEL* OUR RESTIVE ENERGIES TOWARD THE RUTH-LESS *PARASITES* WHO *PREY* ON THE *INNOCENT!*

NEXT VENOM: THE HUNTED!

HE WAS THERE.

"DREADS", HE CALLS HIMSELF.

HE WAS THERE THAT DAY, TWO MONTHS AGO, WHEN EAZY X GANGSTAS FORCED ME, MY BROTHER DEREK AND OUR FRIEND DWIGHT SIMMS OFF A BASKETBALL COURT...

...KILLING MY LITTLE BROTHER... PARALYZING ME FROM THE WAIST DOWN...

...AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT!

YEAH, HE WAS THERE, ALL RIGHT...

...AND NOW HE'S HERE.

WELL, SO AM I, DREADS...

...AND YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY FROM HYBRID THIS TIME!

...AND I'LL BET HE WAS THERE THAT SAME NIGHT, WHEN EAZY X BANG-BOYS KICKED OUR DOOR IN AND SHOT ME AND DEREK DOWN IN COLD BLOOD...

HYBRID PHASE 4:

REVELATIONS

I KNOW THERE ARE OTHER THINGS, OTHER PEOPLE I SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW.

LIKE THE CLUNKY BUT DANGEROUS ARMOR YOUR EAZY X GANG HAS ASSEMBLED FROM THE GUARDSMAN ARMOR BLUEPRINTS YOU TOOK FROM ME...

...OR LIKE JUSTICE, MY FRIEND, AND THE TELE-KINETIC LEADER OF THE NEW WARRIORS, WHO CAME ALONG TO HELP RECOVER THE BLUEPRINTS...

POOM

POOM

A SKOLLICK, AUCOIN, ADAMS, NOVAK, SMITH, BREVOORT, HARRAS PRODUCTION

BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

KRANNG

...OR EVEN "SCAR," YOUR OWN GANG LEADER, AND VERY LIKELY THE GUY WHO ORDERED THE HIT ON MY BROTHER AND ME...

...BUT I ONLY HAVE EYES FOR YOU, DREADS.

MAYBE BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KEEPS TRYING TO GET AWAY!

BLAST!

SCOTT--I MEAN, "HYBRID"--HAS LOST IT!

HE'S LEAVING ME TO DEAL WITH THESE SUPER-ARMORED GANG MEMBERS WHILE HE PURSUES HIS PERSONAL VENDETTA!

BRUDUDA

SKRATKHETA

KRANG

HO $#*%!

BUT IF HYBRID IS MORE INTERESTED IN KILLING THESE GANGSTERS THAN BRINGING THEM TO JUSTICE...

...THEN I'LL HAVE TO BRING JUSTICE TO THEM!

DIE, YOU MUTHAH! DIE!

POOM POOM

POOM POOM

BOY, YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING...

TWG

...WAY TOO MANY MOVIES!

THRAK

CAP THE FRIGGIN'-- HURGH

FUNNY...THIS IS ALL HAPPENING BECAUSE I TRIED TO GET MY FAMILY OUT OF THIS HELLHOLE...OUT OF BEDFORD-STUYVESANT.

STOP 'IM, MAN! SOMEBODY STOP 'IM!

OUT THE WAY!

MANAGED TO LAND A JOB AS A GUARDSMAN AT THE SUPER-VILLAIN PRISON CALLED THE VAULT...

WHOUFF!

UNNH!

CLUMSY SON OF A--

THE TESTS BEING CONDUCTED ON THE SYMBIOTES WERE CRUEL. I ALLOWED THE ALIENS TO ESCAPE. AND I GOT FIRED FOR IT.

BUT THE SYMBIOTES REMEMBERED ME... THEY FOUND ME AND BONDED WITH ME... AND NOW, TOGETHER, WE'RE HYBRID!

AH, THERE HE IS...

URGGK

...THEN FOUND MYSELF TRANSFERRED TO A TOP-SECRET FACILITY WHERE THEY WERE EXAMINING FOUR OF VENOM'S SYMBIOTE OFFSPRING.

...STILL RUNNING...BUT NOT FOR LONG--

WAIT.

MY SYMBIOTES SENSE ONE OF THE ARMORS GETTING A BEAD ON ME!

HANDY HAVING FOUR SETS OF EYES IN THE BACK OF MY HEAD --AND EVERYWHERE ELSE!

JUST DETACH ENOUGH SYMBIOTE MATERIAL--

--TO TAKE HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE!

WHAT THE--?

KEEP RUNNING, YOU SORRY PIECE OF CRAP.

PULLING YOUR MASK DOWN WON'T HIDE YOU THIS TIME.

WHEN YOU AND YOUR "CREW" KICKED OUR DOOR IN, THERE WASN'T ANY PLACE FOR US TO HIDE...

NO-- PLEASE--

...OR ANY TIME FOR US TO BEG FOR OUR LIVES!

NO--

THERE WASN'T ANYTHING--

--EXCEPT DEATH!

AAIGH

THWAKK

NO PLACE TO HIDE? HOW'S IT FEEL?

N-NO-- D-DON'T--

D-DON'T HURT M-ME, MAN...

...DIDN'T DO N-NOTHIN'...

...I JUST JOINED UP A FEW W-WEEKS BACK!

OH MY GOD! NO! IT CAN'T BE...

DWIGHT?!

SCOTT--?

WH-WHAT THE #@%% ARE YOU DOING IN EAZY X COLORS, MAN?

THEY KILLED DEREK... SHOT ME! YOU KNEW THAT!

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR FRIEND, D! H-HOW... WHY...?

S-SCOTT?

THAT'S REALLY YOU?

OH, GOD...

I...I WAS SCARED, MAN!

YOU WERE IN THE HOSPITAL, DEREK WAS IN HIS GRAVE... I THOUGHT I WAS NEXT!

FIGURED THE ONLY WAY I COULD BE SAFE FROM EAZY X WAS IF I BECAME ONE OF 'EM.!

KNOW WHAT I'M SAYIN'?

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...

...IS NIGHT-MARE LOGIC.

NO HOPE...NO OPTIONS ...NO WAY OUT!

THIS IS THE WORLD I'VE BEEN TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM, DWIGHT...

...A WORLD THAT DOES ITS BEST TO TURN HONEST BRO-THERS LIKE YOU AND ME...

...INTO MURDERERS!

YOU CAN'T GET OUT BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY!

CAN'T GET MONEY BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE A JOB!

UNNH!

CAN'T GET A JOB BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE AN EDUCATION!

CAN'T GET AN EDUCATION BECAUSE THE SCHOOLS SUCK!

SCHOOLS SUCK BECAUSE THERE'S NO MONEY!

THERE'S NO MONEY BECAUSE NO ONE OUT THERE CARES ABOUT US!

AND BECAUSE NO ONE CARES ABOUT US, WE DON'T CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER!

THEY HOPE WE'LL JUST KILL EACH OTHER AND GO AWAY...

...AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING!

ONE GANG AT A TIME... ONE SHOOTOUT AT A TIME!

...ONE PRECIOUS LIFE AT A TIME!

WE'RE ALL *KILLING* EACH OTHER TRYING TO GET *OUT* OF THIS HELLHOLE!

INSTEAD OF TRYING TO *HELP* EACH OTHER, WE'RE RUNNING DRUGS... STAKING OUT TERRITORY ...MAKING THIS PLACE EVEN WORSE!

IT'S GOT TO STOP-- NOW!

SWIPP

THE ANSWER *ISN'T* RUNNING AWAY-- OR RUNNING DRUGS--OR EVEN *REVENGE!*

THIS IS WHERE WE *LIVE*--THIS IS *OUR HOME!*

IT'S UP TO *US* TO CLEAN IT UP, MY BROTHERS, TO KEEP IT *TOGETHER*...

SHRIPP

...TO *STAY*, AND MAKE IT SAFE FOR *ALL* OF US!

WHA'CHU TALKIN' 'BOUT?

YOU AIN'T ONE OF US--YOU A FREAK!

CAP 'IM!

POOM POOM

BR-R-R-R-R-T

NOOOOOOOOOO!

GLUP

GLIP

GLUP

GLUP

GLUP

GLIP

NO...

AUDI, Y'ALL!

NOT SO FAST--

LET THEM GO, VANCE. IT'S OVER.

THEY DIDN'T HEAR A WORD I SAID.

SCOTT, I--

THERE'S GOT TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN--

DO?

WHAT'S TO DO IN A PLACE WITHOUT HOPE, MAN?

A PLACE THAT TAKES INNOCENT YOUNG BOYS AND EITHER KILLS 'EM OR TURNS 'EM INTO KILLERS?

I KNOW YOU'RE USED TO A GOOD FIGHT, VANCE...

...BUT HOW DO YOU FIGHT THAT?

SIMPLE ANSWER.

YOU CAN'T.

YEAH, YOU CAN.

BUT NOTHIN'S GONNA CHANGE ON THE STREETS...

...UNTIL EVERYTHING CHANGES IN PEOPLE'S HEADS.

LIKE EVERYTHING JUST CHANGED IN YOUR HEAD, MAN.

ONYX

YOU WERE ALWAYS TALKIN' TO ME AND DEREK ABOUT GETTIN' OUT OF THIS PLACE.

EVER SINCE I MET YOU, YOU'VE BEEN OBSESSED WITH IT.

IF YOU CAN CHANGE HOW YOU SEE THIS THING... THEN SO CAN I.

SO CAN A LOT OF OTHERS.

MAYBE SOMEDAY... ALL OF US.

YEAH... MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, BUT--

BUT THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE, SCOTT. A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE DO CARE.

AND IF YOU CAN CHANGE ONE MIND...

"...YOU CAN CHANGE A MILLION."

SO, YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT GONNA LET THE DOCTORS TRY TO FIGURE OUT HOW YOU'RE ABLE TO WALK AGAIN?

NO WAY, MAN.

IF I LET THEM POKE AND PROD ME TOO MUCH, THEY MIGHT REALIZE THAT IT'S NOT MY BODY DOING THE WALKING...

...BUT THAT IT'S FOUR ALIEN SYMBIOTES PERMANENTLY GRAFTED TO MY FLESH.

AND WHO NEEDS THAT, RIGHT?

YEAH, YOU DON'T WANT TO GO FLASHIN' YOUR "SIM-BY-OATS" AROUND, I GUESS.

SO YOUR RECOVERY'S JUST GOIN' DOWN AS A MODERN-DAY MIRACLE, HUH?

THEY'VE BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN, DWIGHT... EVEN IN A PLACE LIKE BROOKLYN.

FEWER AND FEWER, THOUGH, MAN.

I MISS HIM.

YEAH, I... I KNOW.

I KEPT PROMISING HIM I WAS GOING TO GET US OUT OF THE 'HOOD, TO SOMEPLACE BETTER.

NOW HE'LL NEVER LEAVE.

DEREK WASHINGTON 1982-1996

DEREK WASHINGTON 1982 - 1996

THERE WAS NOTHIN' YOU COULD'A DONE, MAN.

BUT THERE'S STILL A WAY YOU CAN BRING DEREK "SOMEPLACE BETTER".

I KNOW... BY MAKING BEDFORD-STUYVESANT BETTER.

IT'S A PROMISE I INTEND TO KEEP... BUT WE'VE SURE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...

...YOU MEAN "WE" AS IN THE FIVE OF YOU, OR "WE" AS IN THE SIX OF US?

HA HA HA HA! AWRIGHT, I'M IN...

...BUT YOU GOTTA GET ME SOME A'THEM SIM-BY-OATS, TOO!

NOW, QUIT LAUGHIN', MAN, I'M SERIOUS! THOSE THINGS'RE DOPE, JAKE AND ALL'A THAT AND THERE GOTTA BE A WAY...

WATCH FOR THE FURTHER EXPLOITS OF **HYBRID** RIGHT HERE --AND IN THE PAGES OF **NEW WARRIORS!**